



Media Release

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RIPON ON RIGHT ROAD TO REGENERATION

Harrogate Borough Council's Cabinet last night agreed a contribution of £100,000 towards a proposed link road between Blossomgate and Coltsgate Hill, which is a vital part of the proposed new development on land West of the Market Place in Ripon.

Despite many failed plans to bring about a comprehensive development, this area of Ripon's ancient city has been semi-derelict for over 70 years. But the scheme for the re-development at this site to include a supermarket, unit shops and a 185-space car park and link road is nearly in place. And one of the remaining pieces of the jigsaw is the financing of the link road.

The developers are to pay for the first section of the road between Blossomgate and the scheme entrance and the remaining section of the road through to Coltsgate Hill is to be provided by North Yorkshire County Council but it is seeking financial contributions from Ripon City Partnership and Harrogate Borough Council.

Councillor Mike Gardner, Leader of Harrogate Borough Council, said: "The County Council expects the cost to be in the region of £975,000 and it is at present in a position to fund some £660,000 from the Local Transport Plan. This leaves a shortfall of £315,000. The County has asked the Borough Council and the Ripon Partnership to help plug the funding gap and are confident that, if it could be narrowed, then the County Council would find the rest.

"We have always recognised how important this link road is to the overall scheme and have now agreed to contribute £100,000 towards it. We hope that our contribution, together with a possible contribution from Ripon Partnership, will lead to the County Council authorising the necessary additional funding. The proposed scheme by Maple Grove Developments Ltd and the associated road scheme potentially sees the end of the derelict state of land West of the Market Place. In overall terms the total scheme could cost in excess of £10m. Our contribution of £100,000 towards infrastructure cost is important to ensure that the scheme progresses and in doing so deals with the development of a key site in Ripon."
ENDS

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Mike Gardner is available for comment on 01423 816774. Further technical information is available from Mr Bernard White, Chief Estates Surveyor on 01423 556027.

